

COMPACT

TO END LONG-TERM HOMELESSNESS

PREAMBLE

Many communities are establishing practical plans to end homelessness. A cornerstone of the larger campaigns to end homelessness for all Americans is this national initiative, to create much more supportive housing in order to end long-term homelessness within ten years. Supportive housing works to provide stable homes and effective supportive services for families with special needs, people with disabilities, and others who would otherwise remain homeless for the long term, and generates significant public savings by reducing the need for costly emergency and institutional care.

WITH THIS COMPACT, we commit ourselves, in cooperation with all allies and partners who share our goals, to a focused, committed national initiative to end long-term homelessness over the coming decade by creating 150,000 units of permanent supportive housing targeted to families and individuals who are homeless for the long-term, and by preventing more people from joining their ranks. Achievement of these goals will require a significant expansion of the resources dedicated to making affordable housing available to people with the lowest incomes, and will also require securing investments in affordable and supportive housing alternatives from mainstream programs. We commit ourselves to supporting the work of allies leading the effort to achieve these larger goals.

GOALS

We strive to put an end to the common occurrence of long-term homelessness by:

- ❖ Creating and sustaining at least 150,000 units of permanent supportive housing over the coming decade for people who are experiencing long-term homelessness;
- ❖ Ending the practice of discharging large numbers of people into homelessness from hospitals, mental health and chemical dependency treatment facilities, jails, and prisons; and
- ❖ Securing investments in additional affordable and supportive housing alternatives from mainstream systems, so that supportive housing is available to those who are homeless, or would likely be homeless without it.

We also need to do more than focus on those who are already experiencing long-term homelessness. To strengthen communities and families so that they can provide support to their most vulnerable members, and to prevent others from becoming or remaining homeless, we will also work to significantly expand resources dedicated to making affordable housing available to people with the lowest incomes, which includes those homeless households that need affordable, but not supportive, housing.

STRATEGIES FOR ADVANCING OUR GOALS

- ❖ Renew—with predictability and stability—funding for rent or operating subsidies and services that sustain the supportive housing that now exists.
- ❖ Focus resources from mainstream and targeted programs to create and sustain supportive housing.
- ❖ Integrate and coordinate investments for housing and services to use resources efficiently and make it possible to take supportive housing to a much larger scale.
- ❖ Increase resources to create and maintain supportive and affordable housing.
- ❖ Invest in building the capacity of community groups and government to create and sustain high-quality supportive housing.

This undertaking will also:

- ❖ Set the stage for the public support and methods of financing that will make permanent supportive housing the central vehicle for addressing long-term homelessness, particularly homelessness among those with persistent or chronic health challenges (including mental illness, chemical dependency, and/or HIV/AIDS) and multiple barriers to housing stability;
- ❖ Build the public will to support a significant increase in funding for housing affordable to people with the lowest incomes and the supportive services that will enable people who have been homeless and people with disabilities to access and maintain housing and fully participate in community life;
- ❖ Help transform the health care, treatment, employment, criminal justice, and social service systems into *prevention* efforts that will diminish future homelessness; and
- ❖ Make a visible difference in the numbers of people who are homeless for the long term or repeatedly, thereby allowing more effective use of resources to meet the emergency needs of homeless people, building hope, and demonstrating to policymakers that it is worthwhile to make the investments needed to end homelessness for all Americans.

TARGET POPULATION FOR OUR EFFORTS

Our strategy is to garner resources, build political will, and strengthen the capacity to create supportive housing primarily for people who are:

- ❖ Homeless long-term or repeatedly, whose needs often result in the greatest costs resulting from frequent, and often inefficient use of public systems (such as shelters, hospitals, treatment facilities, and jails). This is the target population for the 150,000 units of supportive housing called for by this initiative.
- ❖ At-risk of becoming homeless long-term or repeatedly (those who are homeless for briefer periods of time or those with multiple barriers to housing stability). This is the target population for additional affordable housing, supportive housing, and prevention efforts.

ORGANIZING OURSELVES

- ❖ We commit ourselves to working together to establish a powerful, ongoing coalition of committed individuals and organizations focused on creating the public will and political impetus to make the changes and investments required to end long-term homelessness.
- ❖ We will actively participate as partners to significantly increase affordable housing opportunities, access to health care, and effective support services for all extremely low-income Americans, particularly those who are homeless and those who have disabilities due to chronic health conditions.

DECLARATION OF SUPPORT FOR THE *COMPACT TO END LONG-TERM HOMELESSNESS*

Name of organization or individual

Signature of person authorized to make this commitment

Endorses the ***Compact to End Long-Term Homelessness*** as a statement of our commitment to work, in cooperation with all allies and partners who share our goals, to a focused, committed national initiative to end long-term homelessness over the coming decade by creating 150,000 units of permanent supportive housing targeted to families and individuals who are homeless for the long-term, and by preventing more people from joining their ranks. Achievement of these goals will require a significant expansion of the resources dedicated to making affordable housing available to people with the lowest incomes; and will also require securing investments in affordable and supportive housing alternatives from mainstream programs. We commit ourselves to supporting the work of allies leading the effort to achieve these larger goals.

Contact Person :

Name _____

Address _____

Email _____ Phone _____ Fax _____

Additional Information:

CSH and the National Organizing Committee can use my name or the name of my organization as an endorser of the Compact in public communications (e.g. web site, newsletters, public meetings, announcements or letters, and potentially articles or ads to be placed in newspapers or other media)

- ☐ YES
- ☐ NO
- ☐ Contact me for more information before using my name / the name of my organization

I and/or others in my organization are committed to taking the following actions to obtain additional support to achieve the goals established by the Compact.

- ☐ Work to secure support for the Compact and related policy strategies from the following organizations with which we are affiliated: _____
- ☐ Write letters to elected officials in local, state or federal government
- ☐ Host or arrange a meeting with our state's Senators and Congressional Representatives
- ☐ Work to obtain media coverage (e.g. news stories, editorials, letters to the editor, etc.) that will support the goals of the Compact
- ☐ Mobilize in our state or local community to get support from local allies, tenants / consumers
- ☐ Other ideas about how we can support this effort (*use space on page two to provide suggestions*)

PLEASE COMPLETE THE INFORMATION ON THE NEXT PAGE TO GIVE US A LITTLE BIT OF INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR ORGANIZATION OR YOURSELF AND

MAIL OR FAX TO
Corporation for Supportive Housing
50 Broadway, 17th Floor
New York, NY 10004
(212) 986-6552
attn: Erin Stringer

Please tell us about yourself:

This information will allow us to better describe the breadth of support for this effort to end long-term homelessness. Please complete this and attach to your Declaration of Support

For organizational endorsements

My organization is: *(check the category or categories that best describe your organization)*

- ☐ National organization or coalition
- ☐ Statewide or regional organization or coalition
- ☐ State or local government (e.g. city council) or government agency
- ☐ Community Development Corporation
- ☐ Faith-based organization
- ☐ Consumer and/or family member organization
- ☐ Non-profit organization
- ☐ Foundation or other philanthropic organization
- ☐ Business group or corporation
- ☐ My organization FUNDS supportive housing
- ☐ My organization DEVELOPS, OPERATES, OR PROVIDES SERVICES in supportive housing
- ☐ Other _____

For individual endorsements

I am a: *(check the category or categories that best describes you, and include your affiliation if we can use this information)*

- ☐ Elected official
- ☐ Candidate for public office
- ☐ Government employee
- ☐ Researcher / faculty member
- ☐ Religious leader
- ☐ Community leader
- ☐ Supportive housing tenant, consumer, or person who has experienced homelessness
- ☐ Family member of a supportive housing tenant, consumer, or person who has experienced homelessness
- ☐ Other _____

Affiliation: _____

Additional Comments:

I and/or my organization would like others to consider the following comments or concerns regarding the Compact _____

Here are additional ideas about how we can support this effort: _____

